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Michaux had found a new species of *Pavia*, of *Clethra*, of *Azalea*, of *Rhododendrum*; and thus animated by an enthusiastic love of his science, he did not even think of fatigue. Being arrived at the sources of the river Tennesse, on the other side of the mountains, he found a delightful plain of about a mile in extent, covered with delicious straw-berries, of which he collected roots that have perfectly succeeded in France.

This was the extremity of his present excursion. He returned to Charlestown, where he arrived on the sixth of July, after having travelled

three hundred leagues across Carolina and Georgia. It was in the south of this latter province that he gathered a species allied to cinchona, which is used by the inhabitants of the country as a cure for fevers, and which with us may probably be very serviceable in medicine. This tree, which he has distinguished by the name of *Pinckneya pubens*, is hardy enough to bear the winters of our southern departments. It is at present cultivated in the garden of M. Cels, and in that of the Museum.

*To be Continued.*

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### DETACHED ANECDOTES.

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#### VIRTUOUS SINGULARITY IN OPPOSITION TO PRIVATEERING.

**D**URING the American war, the Amazon privateer was fitted out by the merchants of Belfast on a joint subscription. One respectable merchant who had spent the early part of his life at sea as the captain of a trading vessel refused to join, but lent fifty pounds, the amount of a share, to the poor house to support the cotton manufacture, then carrying on, in its infancy, for the benefit of that institution. Such virtuous opposition to the general current is deserving of being preserved as a proper example, and as a distinguished mark of disapprobation against the vicious and anticommercial spirit of privateering.

Dr. Franklin recommended to the Americans to offer in all their treaties, that in case of future hostilities between them and any nation no countenance should be given by either parties to privateering. The article was only accepted by the Prussians, who were not much engaged in maritime pursuits. K.

#### MODESTY IN AUTHORS.

Herodotus writing of the voyage of a Phœnician vessel, which Nechos, king of Egypt, dispatched by the Red Sea, and which three years afterwards returned by the Mediterranean, says, 'The Phœnicians related on their return that in sailing round Lybia,

they had the sun on their right: this story seemed to me by no means credible, but it perhaps may be believed by others." Later discoveries by a more accurate knowledge of the position of the earth have proved that the act of which Herodotus doubted, really happened, but we have here an instance of his commendable modesty. Ancient historians and geographers, who were more presumptuous, as Strabo for example, have upon their imperfect knowledge, decided that the story was false. Such error is a useful warning to avoid pronouncing judgment from the dictates of prejudice, and with imperfect information. Many assume a habit of dogmatical assertion, to which they require implicit credit. They would frequently prove their prudence if not their wisdom, by exhibiting less positiveness and a greater willingness to doubt of their own infallibility. Many authors act like the French lady of whom Dr. Franklin tells, who in a little dispute with her sister very naturally exclaimed, "I do not know how it happens, sister, but I meet with nobody but myself that is always in the right."

#### FORTITUDE IN MEETING DEATH ACQUIRED BY FORCE OF EXAMPLE IN A MILITARY GOVERNMENT.

The ancient Scandinavians, or inhabitants of Denmark and Sweden,

had an extraordinary passion for war, which their laws, their education, and their religion tinctured by the phrenetic extravagance of Odin or Woden contributed to nurture.

Professor Mallet in his history of Denmark, informs us that Harold king of Denmark, who reigned about the middle of the tenth century founded a town on the coast of Pomerania, called Julin or Jomsburgh. Here he formed a colony of young Danes and appointed a person named Palmatocko governor. This new Lycurgus made another Lacedæmon of his settlement. The education of youth was solely directed to the object of making them soldiers. The colonists were prohibited from mentioning the word fear, even in the most imminent dangers. No inhabitant of Julin was allowed to yield to numbers. He was taught to fight intrepidly, without flying, however superior his enemy might be. The certainty of instant death only served to stimulate him to the combat. It appears that this legislator had succeeded in effacing from the breasts of the greater number of his disciples every sentiment of that passion so powerful and so natural, which makes us dread our dissolution.

Some Jomsburghers, who made an irruption into the territory of Hacco, a Norwegian chieftan, were vanquished, notwithstanding the obstinacy of their resistance. A number of the most distinguished of the party having been made prisoners, were agreeably to the custom of the times, condemned to death. This sentence instead of affecting them inspired them with joy.

One of them returned a remarkable answer, "I suffer willingly," said he, "and this moment affords me the greatest satisfaction. I only beg that my head may be cut off as quickly as possible. It has frequently been disputed at Julin, whether we retain any of our senses after decapitation; I shall therefore hold this knife in one hand, and if after I am beheaded I lift it up against you, that will prove I am not entirely deprived of understanding; if I let it fall that will be a proof to the contrary. Hasten then

and decide the question." Torchil cut the head off at one blow, and the knife fell to the ground.

Such calculation at the very point of death shows a self command that would be highly laudable in a better cause, and discovers the great degree of abstraction to which from education and the force of habit it is possible to attain.

It is however a subject of lamentation to the reflecting that the energies of the human mind, so capable of producing strong efforts in a truly virtuous cause, should be wasted in the destructive system of wars, whether of the savage or civilized mode of conducting them. In that line there is worse than a mere loss of energy, which, if directed to the cause of virtue or philanthropy, could produce much that is truly valuable. When will the benefit of the human race, instead of their destruction be the object of the true and enlightened hero? And when will the film of prejudice be so removed, that mankind will no longer pay honours to the destroyers instead of the benefactors of their kind? If the day of sound judgment and enlightened estimation ever arrive then the Bagshots and the Alexanders, the robbers, and the military heroes as it is fitting they should, will be classed together, and the triumphs of peace, and benevolence efface the trophies of the blood-stained banners of war. K.

#### ENLIGHTENED LEGISLATION.

It is fashionable to decry every thing that is American. Legislatures of countries boasting highly of civilization, and of their system of jurisprudence might receive profitable instruction from the following instance recorded by Judge Bradford of Pennsylvania in his essay on capital punishments.

The crime of horse stealing became so prevalent in Pennsylvania during the confusions of the war, which interrupted the regular administration of justice, that the assembly thought it necessary to increase the punishment of it. They would have extended the penalty to death itself had not the late judge Bryan, at that time a member of the legislature (who to a sound understanding added a fami-

liar acquaintance with all the philosophy of jurisprudence) strenuously opposed it. He made it evident to the good sense of the country members, who were intent upon this punishment, that the severity of the act would defeat its execution, and that a milder penalty would be a more effectual restraint. The subsequent experience of Pennsylvania compared with that of New Jersey (where in the same year the penalty of death was resorted to) fully proves the soundness of this opinion."

CERTAINTY BETTER THAN SEVERITY OF PUNISHMENT.

Facts afford substantial evidence, and avail more in argument, than the finest theoretical speculation. Horse-stealing has always been treated like the other kinds of simple larceny in New England and Pennsylvania: in all the states southward of Maryland, it is a capital crime. In the latter states the offence is as common as in the former, and in Virginia especially the effect is so feeble

that of all crimes this is the most frequent. In New Jersey, at first it was felony of death: in 1769 the law was repealed: it was again revived in 1780: but after a few years experience the legislature was obliged to listen once more to the voice of humanity and sound policy. The unwillingness of witnesses to prosecute, the facilities, with which juries acquitted, and the prospects of pardon, created hopes of impunity, which invited and multiplied the offence. Bankbills have been several times forged in the State of New York, where the offence is capital, but in Pennsylvania the crime has never been committed, although the act which made it capital was repealed several years ago. In Connecticut the forging of continental bills of credit, was not capital and yet few were guilty of the crime, while it was much more frequent in Pennsylvania during the period when they punished with death.

*Bradford on criminal law.*

## ORIGINAL POETRY.

UNE ODE PAR FENELON,  
ARCHÊVEQUE DE CAMBRAY.

MONTAGNES\*, de qui l'audace  
Va porter jusques aux Cieux  
Un front d'éternelle glace ;  
Soutien du séjour des deux :  
Dessus vos têtes chennés  
Je cueille, au dessus des nues,  
Toutes les fleurs du Printemps.  
A mes pieds, contre la terre,  
J'entens gronder la tonnerre,  
Et tomber mille tourmens.  
Semblables aux Monts de Thrace,  
Qu'un Géant audacieux  
Sur les autres Monts entasse  
Pour escalader les Cieux,  
Vos sommets sont des campagnes  
Qui pointent d'autres montagnes,  
Et s'élevant par degrés,  
De leurs orgueilleuses têtes  
Vont affronter les tempêtes  
De tous les vents conjurez,  
Des que la vermeille Aurore  
De ses feux étincelans  
Toutes ces montagnes dore,  
Des tendres agneux belans

\* Montagnes d'Auvergne, où il étoit alors.

Et rent dans les pâturages ;  
Bientôt les sombres bocages,  
Plantez le long de ruisseaux,  
Et que les Zephirs agitent,  
Beigiers et troupeaux invitent  
A dormir au bruit des eaux.  
Mais dans ce rude paysage  
Qu tout est capricieux,  
Et une beauté sauvage,  
Rien ne rappelle à mes yeux  
Les bords que mon fleuve arrose,  
Fleuve où jamais le vent n'ose  
Les moindres flots soulever,  
Ou le Ciel serain nous donne  
Le Printemps après l'Automne  
Sans laisser place à l'Hiver.  
Solitude\*, où la rivière  
Ne laisse entendre autre bruit  
Que celui d'une onde claire,  
Qui tombe écume, & s'enfuit ;  
Ou deux fies fortunées,  
De rameaux verts couronnées,  
Font pour le charme des yeux  
Tout ce que le cœur desire.  
Que ne puis-je sur ma lyre,  
Te chanter du chant des Dieux.

\* Caranae petite Abbaye sur la Dordogne qu'il avoit alors.